

Message Text

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12

ACTION AF-06

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R 241515Z OCT 75

FM AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4812

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMCONSUL DURBAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAPE TOWN 0895

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SF

SUBJ: FURTHER FALL-OUT FROM PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH
CRC EXECUTIVE

REF: (A) CAPE TOWN 0891; (B) CAPE TOWN 0892

SUMMARY: CHAIRMAN LEON HAS SOUGHT ADVICE FROM HIS EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ON HOW TO REPLY TO GOVERNMENT'S REQUEST HE APPROVE CRC BUDGET; HE FEELS HE HAS BEEN PLACED IN INVIDIOUS POSITION AND MAY SEEK COUNCIL'S CONCURRENCE IN HIS APPROVAL OF AT LEAST APPROPRIATIONS NECESSARY TO MEET SALARIES AND PENSIONS. MEANWHILE, PRIME MINISTER MAY HAVE APPROVED A MEMORANDUM ON PROPOSALS FOR COLORED POLITICAL GAINS MORE ACCEPTABLE TO LEON THEN AN EARLIER ONE LEON HAD REJECTED DURING THE OCTOBER 20 MEETING. END SUMMAY.

1. (REF B). PRESS REPORTS LEON HAS CALLED EMERGENCY MEETING OF HIS EXECUTIVE FOR OCTOBER 24 TO DISCUSS IMPLICATIONS OF GOVERNMENT'S REQUEST THAT HE PASS CRC BUDGET AND PART APPROPRIATION. LEON TOLD PRESS REQUEST PLACES HIM IN INVIDIOUS POSITION, MAKES "ABSOLUTE FARCE OF THE CRC AS AN INSTITUTION BY WHICH THE
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COLOURED PEOPLE CAN ATTAIN CONTROL OF THEIR OWN AFFAIRS", AND

DASHES ALL HOPE OF RESOLVING DEADLOCK IN WICH GOVERNMENT AND COLORED PEOPLE FIND THEMSELVES.

2. (REF A, PARA 5). PRESS ALSO REPORTS THAT MINISTER OF COLOURED RELATIONS RELEASED MEMORANDUM ON SUGGESTIONS MADE TO CRC EXECUTIVE BY PRIME MINISTER DURING OCTOBER 20 MEETING, WHICH MINISTER TOLD PRESS WAS A BASIS FOR FUTHER DISCUSSION. THESE INCLUDED REMOVAL OF ALL PROVISIONS THAT MAKE CRC SUBORDINATE TO PARLIAMENT; FULL CABINET STATUS FOR CRC EXECUTIVE MEMBERS; SEPARATE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION AND PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT FOR COLOREDS; CRC CONTROL OF "ALL COLOURED TAXES; IN ADDITION TO THE CREATION OF CONSULTATIVE CABINET COUNCIL. MEMORANDUM IS SAID TO TAKE POSITION THAT IT NOW RESTS WITH EXECUTIVE AND CRC TO STATE WHETHER THEY WANT EXTENSIONS OF CRC POWER AND IF SO TO COOPERATE IN CARRYING OUT THESE CHANGES. IT REPORTEDLY SAYS THAT THESE MATTERS REQUIRE THOROUGH DISCUSSIONS AND "THOSE WHO NOW WANT CUT-AND-DRIED REPLIES TO ALL QUESTIONS ON THE COMPOSITION, AUTHORITY AND FUNCTIONS OF THE PROPOSED CABINET COUNCIL ARE ACTUALLY PUTTING THE CART BEFORE THE HOURSE".

3. IN DISCUSSING SITUATION WITH ME EARLY ON OCTOBER 24, LEON SAID THAT IN REQUESTING HIM TO PASS THE BUDGET AND PART APPROPRIATION, THE MINISTER TOLD HIM THAT IF HE REFUSED HE WOULD RECOMMEND TO THE STATE PRESIDENT THAT HE BE DISMISSED. LEON TOLD ME HE WAS VERY AWARE OF THE WEAKNESS OF HIS OWN POSITION AND THAT HE FELT HE HAD TO CONSULT WITH HIS ASSOCIATES IN THE EXECUTIVE BEFORE DECIDING ON HIS RESPONSE TO THE MINISTER. HE SAID HE ALSO HAD TO KEEP IN MIND THAT IF FUNDS WERE NOT MADE AVAILABLE BY NOVEMBER 7, MANY PEOPLE WOULD NOT RECEIVE THEIR SALARIES AND PENSIONS. HOWEVER, HE ADDED, HE HAD A FEW DAYS LEFT TO "KEEP THE GOVERNMENT GUESSING".

4. WITH REGARD TO THE OCTOBER 20 MEMORANDUM, LEON SAID THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAD GIVEN HIM A MEMORANDUM DURING THE MEETING THAT HE HAD REJECTED BECAUSE IT WAS TOO GENERAL AND VAGUE TO FORM THE BASIS OF USEFUL DISCUSSIONS. HE PRESUMED THAT THE MEMORANDUM THAT THE PRESS REPORTED THE MINISTER HAD RELEASED (AND WHICH HE HAD NOT SEEN) WAS AN ELABORATION OF THE EARLIER ONE AND MAYBE MORE RESPONSIVE TO HIS LIST OF 27 QUESTIONS HE HAD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GIVEN THE GOVERNMENT IN AUGUST. WHEN HE RECEIVED THE NEW MEMORANDUM HE WOULD BE IN A BETTER POSITION TO REACT.

5. COMMENT: I WAS LEFT WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT LEON WOULD WELCOME HIS EXECUTIVE'S CONSENT TO HIS APPROVING AT LEAST THE PART APPROPRIATIONS. HE COULD EXPLAIN THAT HE WAS APPROVING UNDER DURESS. AT THE SAME TIME HE SEEMS QUITE WILLING TO PLAY THE CAT-AND-MOUSE GAME THAT THE AND THE GOVERNMENT ARE INVOLVED

IN. HE REALIZES THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HOLDS MOST OF THE
TRUMPS; BUT HE FEELS THAT HE MUST PRESERVE HIS OWN CREDIBILITY
AS A FIGHTER FOR COLORED RIGHTS. AT THE SAME TIME THE PRIME
MINISTER APPARENTLY HAS DECIDED TO BE MORE FORTHCOMING THAN
HE WAS ON OCTOBER 20 BY HAVING A MORE DETAILED AND PRESUMABLY
MORE ACCEPTABLE MEMORANDUM ISSUED.
GAMON

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